

# ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES

OFFICIAL CAMPUS MINISTRY ORGANIZATION OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN U.S.



## Campus Outreach Idea Bank

*“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)*

The love of Christ should be shared with everyone, but it can be difficult to start that conversation with people. Below is a list of simple evangelism ideas that can be done on campus.

1. Teach about Evangelism (internal to OCCM members)

Many of our chapter members have no clue how to go about evangelism. Educating chapter members on the importance of evangelism and how to go about it is crucial. This can be done by handing out informative pamphlets, dedicating a bible study session to it, or by providing resources to watch or read. We have developed a ‘beginner’ video to train our OCCM members. Please consult with your Campus Outreach Regional Student Leader for access.

2. Visiting an Oriental Orthodox Church

Many of our chapters have Oriental Orthodox Churches nearby or in the same city. Attending the services at a sister OO Church will both be an educational experience for OCCM members and a way to introduce yourself to members of our sister churches. Their youth may be students at your own chapter!

3. Sport Game with Lesson at Halftime

A sporting event (basketball, volleyball, kickball, etc.) hosted by the chapter. Members can invite friends (lost sheep, non-believers, interested in the faith, etc.) and play in the game or tournament with an OCCM lesson given at halftime.

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## 4. OCCM Olympics

Building on a lesson at halftime at only one game, why not create a whole tournament with multiple chapters! While this does require much planning, this is a great way for people to attract people to the Faith via a larger scale activity.

## 5. Awko Taco

A social event where members invite students to discuss controversial topics surrounding Christian values while having a meal. Different foods can be used, so change the name if done so.

## 6. Palm Craft Night

During Lent, chapters can partake in fellowship by inviting others by weaving palm leaves together. A tutorial can be given by a member or perhaps members throughout the chapter can meet visitors and assist them.

## 7. Tabling: Set up a table on-campus

Most campuses have organization fairs or allow for organizations to set up a table on campus. People walking by can look at a poster about Orthodoxy, pick up a pamphlet, and stop to ask questions. (Banners and brochures are pre-designed by OCCM and are available on the website under 'Chapter Resources'. Please do not create your own materials.)

## 8. Goodie Bag Giveaway: Pass out goods with an attached Bible verse

Cut out bible verses and attach them to a bag of snacks, goodie bag, or nick nack. Have a group of members seek out a location with many people, such as outside the school library, and pass them out for free!

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## 9. Invite People to Bible Study or Community Service Events

Simply inviting friends to OCCM social, volunteer, or spiritual events can spark someone's interest in the faith. Encourage members to invite their friends and be extremely welcoming and friendly to any new members who join.

## 10. Outdoor/Public Bible Studies

Host a bible study or prayer service outdoors on campus allowing anyone to join. This can be your usual weekly bible study. This is intended to draw people's attention and maybe someone passing by will ask to join or will hear a verse or message that touches them.

## 11. Putting up Posters or Banners

Many chapters allow organizations to hang up posters, banners, or flyers on bulletin boards around campus. Premade materials are provided and are available on the OCCM website. If you would like to create your own material specific to your chapter, it must be approved. Please avoid creating your own unapproved materials. Hanging up information about Orthodoxy or OCCM with bible verses written on it is a great way to reach students.

## 12. Worship Night with Other Organizations

Create and advertise worship events hosted by the ministry itself. Choose a location on or near campus with enough space for the worship. Designate who will be able to provide the instrumentation and lead the worship. A list of Orthodox appropriate worship songs is provided. This requires tremendous participation, commitment, communication, and organization.

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## 13. Small Group Bible Study/Assigning Small Talks

Within the greater chapter, form small groups to host Bible studies on campus and rotate heading talks (pending approval of Clergy Advisor) in campus' high traffic areas. Create a group chat and meet on a regular basis. Sometimes people get bored of hearing Bible study sounding like a lecture, but when it comes from a friend, it becomes personalized and more relatable!

## 14. Move-in Day

Every university has a designated move-in day for their various forms of housing for incoming freshmen and even those who may be moving around. Designate members to give a helping hand and help make incoming freshmen feel welcome in their new home. This is an excellent way to display OCCM's sense of community.

## 15. Game Events in High Traffic Areas

Similar to hosting a lesson at halftime, host a game event in a high traffic area to attract new members to your chapter. Seeing an organization do fun, interactive activities could be just the spark to come to the next meeting and be introduced to the Orthodox faith.

## 16. University Clean-Up

Host a university clean-up in various areas on campus. Students are incredibly passionate about their school so seeing others maintaining it, exposes and encourages them to look for organizations such as ours that care deeply about our presence on campus.

## 17. Banquet/Dinner

Adhering to both diocese and OCCM rules and regulations, host a semi-formal banquet to improve member cohesion and meet new people. Finding a sense of community is not only

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important for current members but for those who wish to feel welcome in the Orthodox faith, thus making it crucial to invite friends from outside to events such as this.

## 18. Hand-out Food/Drink Giveaway

This is an excellent opportunity for your chapter to show its involvement in the student body. While this requires approval, provide lunches, snacks, desserts, etc. (e.g. Chick-fil A sandwiches, brownies, cookies) to students running to grab a quick bite to eat! Adhering to the diocese rules and regulations, you may only place a donation box for the consumer if they so choose.

## 19. Volunteer at Local Donation Events

Assemble members of your chapter to volunteer at a soup kitchen, food drive, etc. Many students are often overlooked as to where they will get their next meal and seeing an organization be concerned for their overall well-being inspires them to do the same and possibly even join OCCM.

## 20. Bible Trivia Night

Host a Bible trivia night and invite a friend from outside who may not be familiar with the Orthodox faith. This provides a direct forum to display what it is that the Orthodox Faith testifies to and provides an opportunity for clarification as well as a sense of a welcoming community.

## 21. Carnival Style Event

Host a carnival event on campus or a convenient place such as Church by bringing carnival games, food, and prizes to the carnival. This is a great way to expose non-believers to the fun activities we do and invite them to your next meeting/church service. Additionally, with the clergy

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advisor's permission, handing out unique Orthodox items along with OCCM pamphlets are another way to have our organization and overall our faith stand out.

## 22. Campus Tutoring

Collaborate with your university in establishing tutoring services for various subjects to capitalize on your educational talents. It does not have to be complicated subjects, yet work according to your capabilities in helping those who may not be able to afford hiring a tutor. Establish a system in working with students and create a personal relationship with them to expose them to the faith.

## 23. Blood Drive with Giveaway

Coordinate with organizations such as OneBlood to host blood drives, preferably on campus. If not possible, advertise it on campus to have it hosted at your local Oriental Orthodox church. Have a table set up outside the bus to make donors aware of the purpose of our organization and the premise of our faith.

## 24. Adopt an International Student

While a bit more complicated, work with your university and local organizations to help international exchange students settle in. Imagine yourself in their shoes in moving to a new country. Yearning for having someone to talk to and just a helping hand is all they ask for. Invite them to a future meeting and have them learn about what it means to be Orthodox.

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## 25. Game Night

Host a Game Night on campus with games of your choosing such as board games, game shows, etc. and invite a friend to come join. Have a quick lesson or maybe even make games related to the Faith such as Orthodox Trivia. Have them meet new people and make them feel welcome!

## 26. Christmas/Easter Party

Coordinate a Christmas/Easter party on campus and invite friends to come and eat and have a great time! Have a quick lesson on what makes our reasons for the seasons different from others and promote fellowship with those from outside.

## 27. Athletic Events

Although this may require much planning, this is an excellent way to publicize the existence of OCCM on campus and the Oriental Orthodox Church in general. You can host your own athletic event (e.g., 5k, marathon, etc.) or collaborate with other organizations to volunteer at an already established athletic event such as running marathons for a Christian cause. Handing out water, shirts, etc. are usually what is requested at events such as this.

## 28. Handing Out Hot Chocolate/Coffee in Winter

Place a stand in a high traffic area on campus and hand out hot drinks and snacks to oncoming students wanting to grab a quick drink before their class. Once again, these are complementary, and donations are at their discretion. Hand out a pamphlet and invite them to your next big event/meeting.

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## 29. Participate in Campus Events

Many universities host events for the broader student body in which student organizations may volunteer as a way to showcase their organization. Whether it be volunteering at a football game, campus carnival, or various campus social events, this can be considered a crucial opportunity to make OCCM's presence a known organization on campus.

If you have other ideas outside of this list, please be sure to run them by your Regional Student Leader of the Campus Outreach Committee.

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Each *Campus Outreach* event has been sorted out for you according to their difficulty for your convenience. By difficulty we mean the amount of time, effort, and supplies needed to execute each respective event properly and successfully. Those with a ★ by them are REQUIRED/NON-NEGOTIABLE!

## **TIER 1 (Rookie) (Additional Events: 5 pts)**

- ❖ Visiting a Sister Oriental Orthodox Church
- ❖ Inviting Colleagues/Peers/Friends to a Bible Study or Chapter Event ★ (10 pts)
- ❖ Putting Up Organization Posters or Banners ★ (10 pts)
- ❖ Teach about Evangelism
- ❖ University Clean-Up
- ❖ Bible Trivia

## **TIER 2 (Champ) (Additional Events: 10 pts)**

- ❖ Tabling ★ (20 pts)
- ❖ Goodie-Bag Giveaway
- ❖ Awko Taco—*preferably with the guidance of a church father*
- ❖ Palm Craft Night
- ❖ Sports Game with Lesson at Half-time
- ❖ Outdoor/Public Bible Studies ★ (20 pts)
- ❖ Banquet/Dinner
- ❖ Handout Food/Drink; Bake Sale
- ❖ Volunteer at Local Donation Events
- ❖ Campus Tutor
- ❖ Adopt an International Student

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- ❖ Game Night
- ❖ Handing Out Hot Chocolate/Coffee in the Winter
- ❖ Participate in Campus Events

## **TIER 3 (Legend) (Additional Events: 15 pts)**

- ❖ Game Event in High Traffic Area ★ (30 pts)
- ❖ Move-in Day
- ❖ Worship Night with Other Organizations *Hosted by OCCM*
- ❖ OCCM Olympics
- ❖ Small Group Bible Study/Assigning Small Talks
- ❖ Carnival-Style Event
- ❖ Blood Drive with Giveaway
- ❖ Christmas/Easter Party
- ❖ Athletic Event

Reporting of Events Completion: Please complete the [Campus Outreach Tracking Google Form](#) to describe the work completed at the event, and send pictures to your Regional Student Leader for proof of completion.